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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01 DRC-01 /133 W
---------- 012791
R 051728Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7253
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12718

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, CZ
SUBJECT: FRG-CZECH TALKS

1. IN COURSE OF SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING WITH STATE SECRETARY FRANK, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED IF FRANK THOUGHT THE FRG-CZECH TALKS HAD STALLED BECAUSE OF A SOVIET DECISION TO TAKE A HARDER STAND TOWARD THE FRG THROUGH EE'S.

2. FRANK SAID THE QUESTION ON WHICH THE TALKS HAD STALLED COULD NOT BE SOLVED BY THE CZECHS BUT ONLY BY THE RUSSIANS, AND THE FRG HAD TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE ITS POSITION CLEAR TO MOSCOW, WHICH ALONE IS ABLE TO DO SOMETHING. PERHAPS SCHEEL COULD DEAL WITH GROMYKO ON MATTER WHEN THEY ARE IN NEW YORK FOR UNGA.

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2. AFTER REVIEWING SOME OF THE TECHNICALITIES OF THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROBLEM, FRANK SAID THAT

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MOSCOW WAS CLEARLY TRYING TO OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONCEPT OF WEST BERLIN AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE ENTITY, AND THE FRG HAD TO RESIST. PERHAPS, HE OBSERVED, THE PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE FOUR POWERS FOR DECISION. (THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THIS WOULD BE BOTH DIFFICULT AND TIME CONSUMING.) FRANK ADDED THAT THE CZECHS HAD MADE THE POINT THAT THE THREE WESTERN POWERS ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO GET INTO A STRUGGLE OVER LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO REPORTS FROM BERLIN CIRCLES TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GDR WOULD TAKE STEPS TO IMPEDE GERMAN TRAFFIC TO BERLIN IF THE RUSSIANS PERMITTED SUCH ACTION, AND ASKED FOR FRANK'S VIEWS. FRANK SAID HE COULDN'T JUDGE, BUT ONE THING WAS CLEAR: BERLIN IS THE BAROMETER OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS, AUTOMATICALLY REFLECTING TENSION AND RELAXATION. IF THE RUSSIANS THINK EAST/WEST RELAXATION CAN CONTINUE INDEPENDENT OF WHAT HAPPENS IN BERLIN, THE SITUATION COULD BECOME DIFFICULT. IT MUST BE MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEY HAVE TO RESPECT THE BERLIN AGREEMENT FULLY.

4. FRANK THEN ALLUDED TO THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN THE USSR. THE PROBLEM WITH DISSIDENTS, AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF RELAXATION OF TENSION IN THE USSR AND THE EE'S WERE MATTERS OF REAL SOVIET CONCERN. IT WAS HARD TO TELL IF THIS CONCERN WAS SO SERIOUS AS TO MAKE MOSCOW TURN BACK FROM EASIER EAST/WEST RELATIONS. THE SOVIET POSITION ON BASKET THREE IN THE CSCE WHEN IT RESUMES SHOULD BE INDICATIVE.
HILLENBRAND

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